

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02949 131418Z

43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SWF-02 XMB-07 DRC-01 /242 W

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R 131144Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5688

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY RASILLIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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EO 11652: N/A

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02949 131418Z

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJ: MTN: TNC WORKING GROUP ON NTB'S, IMPORT
DOCUMENTATION, MAY 9-10.

1. SUMMARY. NNB GROUP HELD FIRST EXPERT LEVEL EXCHANNE
OF VIEWS ON TRADE BARRIERS CAUSED BY IMPORT DOCUMENTA-
TION, GAVE INSTRUCTION FOR COLLECTION OF ADDITIONAL
DATE BY SECRETARIAT AND AGREED TO MEET AGAIN ON
JUNE 20-21. END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. (KELLY) POINTED OUT THAT, ALTHOUGH GATT
ARTICLE VIII DOES NOT RPT NOT CALL FOR ELIMINATION OF
CONSULAR FORMALITIES, CPS RECOMMENDED THEIR COMPLETE
ELIMINATION IN 1952, 1957, AND 1962. THESE RECOMMENDATIONS
HAVE HAD MODERATELY USEFUL EFFECT. U.S. NOTED, FOR
EXAMPLE, BRAZILIAN AND VENEZUELAN ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE
CONSULAR VISAS AND INVOICES. U.S. ALSO NOTED THAT
PERU MAY SOON TAKE SIMILAR ACTION. U.S. EXPRESSED
GRATIFICATION AND CALLED FOR FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD
WORLD-WIDE ABOLITION OF CONSULAR FORMALITIES. IN THIS
RESPECT, WE CALLED GROUP'S ATTENTION TO U.S. PROPOSAL
FOR INTERPRETATIVE NOTE TO GATT ARTICLE VIII (GATT DOC,
SPEC(72)139) WHICH CALLS FOR ELIMINATION OF CONSULAR
FORMALITIES AND FEES. U.S. POSITION WAS SUPPORTED BY
CANADA (PETER CLARK), JAPAN (WADA), NORDIC'S AND
AUSTRALIA (MOORE-WILTON). WHILE NOT TAKING POSITION
ON U.S. PROPOSED INTERPRETATIVE NOTE, EC (DERISBOURG)
NEVERTHELESS FAVORED ABOLITION OF CONSULAR FORMALITIES.

3. U.S. (SUPPORTED BY AUSTRALIA) ALSO SUGGESTED THAT
ELIMINATION OF CONSULAR FORMALITIES AND FEES COULD BE
USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO MTN PACKAGE. WE POINTED OUT THAT
THIS WOULD BE SOMETHING LDC'S COULD DO WHICH WOULD ALSO
BE CONSISTENT WITH THEIR OWN NEEDS.

4. NORDIC'S E, JAPAN AND OTHER DELEGATIONS
SAID THAT COMMERCIAL INVOICE SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT
FOR CUSTOMS VALUATION AND THEREFORE CUSTOMS INVOICE
NOT NEEDED. EC ADDED THAT SOLUTION TO SOME PROBLEMS
IN IMPORT DOCUMENTATION FIELD WOULD BE FACILITATED IF
BRUSSELS VALUATION SYSTEM ADOPTED. CANADA SAID THAT
ITS REQUIREMENT FOR CUSTOMS INVOICE WAS DIRECTLY
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 02949 131418Z

RELATED TO ITS VALUATION SYSTEM AND, HENCE, COULD NOT
RPT NOT BE CONSIDERED IN ISOLATION. AUSTRALIA AGREED
WITH CANADA AND DOUBTED IF COMMERCIAL INVOICE SUFFICIENT.

5. U.S. COMMENTED THAT WHILE VALUATION
PROBLEMS NOT RPT NOT BEING CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING,
THEY RELEVANT FOR KIND OF DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED.
UNIVERSAL SYSTEM OF VALUATION--WHETHER U.S., CANADIAN,

BRUSSELS OR WHATEVER--MIGHT BE USEFUL BUT NO PERFECT SYSTEM AVAILABLE. U.S. SAID THAT NORDIC PROPOSAL FOR REPLACEMENT OF CUSTOMS INVOICE BY COMMERCIAL INVOICE WOULD DEPEND ON DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD COMMERCIAL INVOICE WHICH PROVIDES REQUIRED INFORMATION.

6. U.S. SAID THAT ONE OF PURPOSES OF THIS EXERCISE SHOULD BE TO DEVELOP SMALLEST POSSIBLE LIST GIVING REQUIRED INFORMATION BEYOND WHICH GOVERNMENTS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT GO. EC AGREED. U.S. EXPLAINED THAT ITS PROPOSAL FOR "COMMON INVOICE REQUIREMENTS FOR CUSTOMS PURPOSES"(COM.IND/W/79 ANNEX D) IS ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE SUCH LIST. OTHER COUNTRIES MIGHT ALSO PROVIDE SUCH LISTS BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE. ALTERNATIVELY GROUP MIGHT CONSIDER DOCUMENT ISSUED ON 12 JULY 1972 BY CCC (18.819E) WHICH LISTS--(1) INFORMATION COMMONLY REQUIRED BY MOST COUNTRIES AND (2) INFORMATION REQUIRED BY ONLY A FEW COUNTRIES. AUSTRALIA AND EC SUPPORTED U.S. SUGGESTION.

7. GROUP INSTRUCTED SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE ANALYSIS OF EXISTING SITUATION ON BASIS OF WORK ALREADY CARRIED OUT BY CCC FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING, JUNE 20-21.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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